

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (cancelled)

10. (amended) A method of using a β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition comprising the steps of:

a) blending the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition with a feed; and

b) feeding the blended feed to livestock or poultry;

wherein the β -1,4-mannobiose-containing composition is prepared by reacting through the function of a mannan degrading enzyme [[to]] and a mannan-containing natural material, the amount of β-1,4-mannobiose is which contains at least 3% by weight of β-1,4-mannobiose in terms of the dry matter portion of the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition, and the blended feed inhibits the colonization of salmonella in livestock and poultry.

11. (amended) A method of using a β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition comprising the steps of:

a) blending the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition with a feed; and

b) feeding the blended feed to livestock or poultry;

wherein the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition is prepared by reacting through the function of a mannan degrading enzyme [[to]] and a mannan extracted from a mannan-containing natural material, the amount of β-1,4-mannobiose is which contains at least 10% by weight of β-1,4-mannobiose in terms of the dry matter portion of the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition, and the blended feed inhibits the colonization of salmonella in livestock and poultry.

12. (amended) The ~~β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition according to method of claim 10 or 11, wherein the mannan-containing natural material is palm kernel meal, and/or copra meal, or a combination of both.~~

13-14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled) The method of claim 10 or 11, wherein ~~the feed according to claim 14 which contains the amount of β-1,4-mannobiose is 0.001-1% by weight of β-1,4-mannobiose the dry matter portion of the feed.~~

16. (new) A method of inhibiting colonization of salmonella in livestock or poultry comprising feeding livestock or poultry a feed blended with a β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition, wherein the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition is prepared through the reaction of a mannan degrading enzyme with a mannan-containing natural material, and wherein the amount of β-1,4-mannobiose is at least 3% by weight of the dry matter portion of the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition.

17. (new) A method of inhibiting colonization of salmonella in livestock or poultry comprising feeding livestock or poultry a feed blended with a β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition, wherein the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition is prepared by mixing a mannan degrading enzyme and a mannan extracted from a mannan-containing natural material, and the amount of β-1,4-mannobiose is at least 10% by weight of the dry matter portion of the β-1,4-mannobiose-containing composition.

18. (new) The method of claim 16 or 17, wherein the mannan-containing natural material is palm kernel meal, copra meal, or a combination of both.

19. (new) The method of claim 16 or 17, wherein the amount of β-1,4-mannobiose is at least 0.001-1% by weight of the dry matter portion of the feed.